



## LONDON INFLUENCES

### The Keynote of the Spring Styles

**T**HE trend of the fashion shows that for the coming spring season, at least, the tendency will be toward conservatism. The clothes of the best dressed men, those who study the suitability and convenience of dress as well as the newest fashion, will be conspicuous for the absence of fancy frills of any kind, and the elegance of simplicity will be studied. There will be no place in the coming spring and summer for the

fancy cuff, or any of the attendant fripperies of odd flaps or pockets on either business or dress garments, nor in the sack coat will we see any trace of the exaggerated front length or "dip" to which we have become accustomed in former seasons.

In length, the tendency for all garments is toward further shortness; while the coat lengths are moderate, tailors who like their customers to be dressed in the latest mode keep toward the short side. This tendency

will not be confined to business sacks, but will extend to all sorts of coats, for dress as well as for general purposes.

#### Characteristics of the New Fashions

Judging from present appearances the style this season and probably for some time will be for fitting garments, especially in coats. The extremely close fitting coats of the fall and winter will be slightly relaxed for

spring and summer, as it is but natural when the requirements of warmer weather are considered, but this tendency will not be carried to extremes, and a moderately fitting coat will be preferred, moderate in shoulders, without exaggeration of chest, easy yet carrying out the idea of closeness. The back of the coat will be quite form fitting, with the waist well defined and a moderate spring over the hips. The shoulder seam will be high to give an appearance of squareness, and a plain vent will be placed in the center seam of sack coats, although the latter will not be obligatory. Perhaps the most noticeable change in the spring coats will be in the shape of the lapel and crease lines. The rolls will be moderately long, and the crease

line will be curved, moderately of course, so as to show a considerably broader opening than has been the custom. Conforming to this, the outside edge of the lapel will also be curved, having considerable "belly," as the trade term has it. These features will be common to all coats.

#### Correct Sack Coats

The single-breasted business sack will close with three buttons with a front edge fairly straight with blunt corners at the bottom. In the summer time while three buttons and button holes are placed, usually only one of each is used; sometimes the top button is fastened, often the lowest; this season it is probable that the middle button will be closer, the top and bottom left unfastened. This will necessitate a soft roll, which will roll to the second button at least; but the roll will be different from the soft roll as generally understood. It will be flat to correspond with the flatness of the chest. It must not be ironed down, but be as flat as can be obtained without pressing smoothly.

At least for early spring the double-breasted sack will be more popular than it has been for many seasons. For some time there has been a tendency in this direction, fostered no doubt by the attractive materials which are shown in this connection. Some of the chevrons, especially in browns, are beautiful in shade and pattern and they will be deservedly popular. Most of the new style double-breasted sacks will be braided on the lapels, collar and front edges and the roll will be soft to the second button. The braiding will be either heavy mohair, or the narrower French silk braid, according to the taste of the customer. The braid, however, is considered sufficient ornament, and no eccentricity of cut will be allowable, not even a braided cuff.

#### Norfolk and Business Frocks Popular

The Norfolk blouse will also be in great favor for informal occasions in one of the many attractive designs for which this coat is noted. Fancy chevrons and homespun will be the favored materials, and one of the most attractive models is where there is a plain yoke, patch pockets with bellows plaits, and an inverted plait on the

center back seam and from the breast pocket to the side pocket. The belt runs to the latter plait around the back, but does not confine the front.

Another coat which will be more than usually popular is the business frock of fancy striped or mixed worsted. The greatly favored black cutaway having been advanced to the dignity of a dress garment, the business cutaway followed with a new lease of life. This vogue has been growing for several seasons, but in the coming season the higher class business and professional man will pass by the sack to greater extent than ever before and adopt the business cutaway. The preferred model of this attractive garment will have a narrow back, with a moderately short waist, will be shorter and will be well cut away below the lowest of the buttons. In other respects it will follow the regular characteristics of the season.

#### Double-Breasted Frock for Formal Occasions

While the black cutaway has been generally adopted as a correct coat for day dress and an impression has gone out that the double-breasted frock has been cast into the discard, close observers have noticed that on occasions of formality when it was absolutely necessary that a man should be dressed correctly, few cutaways were seen, and the double-breasted frock was everywhere. This adoption of the double-breasted frock is absolutely correct, for no other garment is now, or has

been, able to take its place. No other coat gives an air of dignity equal to that bestowed by the frock, and in it every man assumes the appearance of one who determines to do honor to the time, place and occasion. That it will continue to hold its place there is no question, and the man who is asked to give advice about formal day dress will do well to remember that while the double-breasted frock is correct for both formal and informal day dress occasions, the cutaway is suitable only for the more informal occasions, and is as much incorrect when worn at strictly formal occasions as is the dinner coat at an evening reception.

Recognizing this tendency, the double-breasted frock is given a prominent place in the coming season's fashions, made shorter, close-fitting with the waist well defined and only a moderate amount of bell to the skirts. It will generally close with three buttons, rolling to the second.

Trousers for spring will be even more fitting than they were in the fall, and the tendency is toward even further tightness. The peg top and the loose trousers of all sorts have gone completely out of fashion. Not only have trousers become narrower, but they are shorter, reaching only to the top of the instep, and with younger men, sometimes rolled only to the shoe tops. These latter are, of course, extreme, but they have taken the fancy of the younger element so long devoted to peg tops.

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